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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Military Developments in South Vietnam: Nearly 1,700 Communist troops have been killed in the series of operations in northern Binh Dinh Province since 8 September, according to casualty reports submitted by participating US, South Vietnamese and South Korean units.

As a result of the continuing allied initiative, the 610th North Vietnamese/Viet Cong Division is estimated by US military authorities in South Vietnam to be dispersed and seriously disorganized. Casualties in the 12th Regiment of the 610th Division have reportedly reduced that unit's combat strength by nearly one half.

At least 600 captives have also been taken; some of them are regulars from the North Vietnamese Army. The heavy military action in the area has also resulted in an extensive outflow of refugees. According to press reports, as many as 16,000 have been moved from enemy-controlled areas in one district alone.

Even if allowances are made for some over-calculation of enemy casualty totals and the refugee flow, it appears certain that Communist control over and influence among the populace of this area has been seriously impaired.

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Congo-USSR: President Mobutu probably will soon permit the reopening of the Soviet Embassy in Kinshasa (Leopoldville).

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[REDACTED] The government closed the embassy almost three years ago when two Soviet diplomats were discovered to be aiding exiled opponents of the Adoula government. The projected policy shift accords with Mobutu's efforts to reduce influence of Western states, especially Belgium and Portugal, to help gain standing as a true African nationalist. Foreign Minister Bomboko, meanwhile, has been discussing an exchange at the charge level with the Soviet UN delegation.

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[REDACTED] While well aware of past Soviet subversive efforts, Mobutu and his neophyte security service will have trouble keeping even a small Soviet Embassy under surveillance.

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[REDACTED] 25X1

Costa Rica: The Trejos administration and the opposition National Liberation Party (PLN) may be heading for a major showdown.

The PLN has made effective use of its legislative majority to weaken the position of President Trejos, whose narrow electoral victory in February was made possible by a coalition of disparate groups in league to defeat the PLN. The growing influence in the administration of the PLN's political archenemy, the Republican Party, as well as Trejos' attempts to alter programs and institutions created under PLN presidents, have led the PLN to pursue an increasingly aggressive policy toward the government.

Trejos is countering PLN harassment by firing some PLN incumbents in government offices and by resorting to other forms of retribution.

Ambassador Telles reports that, although both sides have publicly left the way open for retreat from their present intransigence, he does not detect any real inclination to compromise. PLN leaders, according to the ambassador, have spoken privately about resorting to arms. [redacted]

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NOTE

NATO: The Fourteen permanent representatives to the North Atlantic Council failed on 7 October to resolve the question of moving the Council from Paris to Brussels and will consider the matter again on 20 October. Canada and Denmark still hold out against any move and want the issue decided at the ministerial meeting in December. Reports from Copenhagen, however, indicate some weakening of Danish resolve on this issue. In keeping with the changing atmosphere in Bonn reflecting a more cooperative attitude toward the French, the Germans prefer to wait until December before making a formal decision on moving the council.

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